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The Athenian Mercury:

Saturday, *November* 7. 1691.

UPon *Wednesday* being the *4th.* of this Instant, there was a Triumphal Arch about the middle of *Cheapside*, erected in the manner of two Tables. —— Over the first was a Draught of the *Gun-Powder-Plot*, with this Inscription,

The Powder-Plot.

See Protestants, what your Fore-fathers bore,
Then mark, that Papists plotted heretofore;
Admire no more they undermine the Laws,
Who undermine your Lords with like applause,
Alike their Treachery, alike their Cause.

Upon the second Table was a Draught of *French* Cruelties, thus inscrib'd:

French Cruelty.

Monstrous Tyranny, desolate France *declares,*
Whose Civil Butcheries outdo the Wars.
The groaning Natives wander for repose,
And Exile rather than Oppression chose.
Wars fill the World, and Horrours reign abroad,
Whilst William's *Cares our Wealth and Peace restor'd.*

Upon the other side of the Tables was drawn the King's Landing, and inscrib'd,

The Prince of *Orange*'s Landing.

Just Heavens, who all Oppressions doth oppose,
And acts as infinitely as he knows,
By special Conduct our Deliverance brought,
And this we annually Celebrate.
Thus we give Nassau *thanks, and Heaven bless;*
That for the Action, this for the Success.

And upon the other was drawn the Siege of *Limrick*, with this Inscription,

The Seige of *Limrick*.

Athlone *and* Aghrim, Limrick, Ballimore,
Is William's *now, and* Ireland's *Peace secures.*
No more the Terror of Bellona's *fears,*
In all his settled Government appears.
His Conquering Hand for future Trophies waits,
To Ballance Kingdoms, and give Laws to States.

Just above the Tables was a *Brittannia*, with a Javelin and a Crown.

On the other side, just opposite, was a *Victoria*, dress'd in Armour and Spoils.

There were five Flaggs, the uppermost had their Majesties Arms. Upon the two outmost were Writ, *Vivat Rex & Regina.* Upon the two inmost were Writ, *No Popery, No Slavery.* There were also three Curious Wheels; about the first and largest was written, *God Bless King* William *and Queen* Mary. Upon the second, *---Deliver'd from Popery and Slavery* Ann. 1691. Upon the third, *Prosperity to the Protestant Religion.*

The two sides were twisted with Imitation of Orange Trees, and Oranges growing upon them.

Query, *What think you of such a way of expressing the City's Gratitude in Commemoration of his Majesties Anniversary Birth-day, his Conquests, his Restoring the Priviledges of the Nation? and what were the Triumphs and Trophies of former Ages, amongst the* Romans *and* Grecians, *upon the like Occasions?*

Answ. 'Tis as the Querist observes, a grateful Commemoration of his Majesties Victories, as mention'd in the Question; and (I'm willing to perswade my self) such a one as will not terminate in a *bare Pageantry*, but be productive of the *utmost Testimonies of Loyalty*; especially since it is towards the perfecting that great Work that has hitherto been so effectually carry'd on by his Majesty, *Who has hawk'd no dangers, that he might make us happy.*

Flattery is the greatest Task that can be Propos'd to a Loyal Soul: Yet he's a *Debtor to Justice* that dares not mention a *Modest Truth*, and must own a *Weak Judgment* that knows no distinction between a *grateful Acknowledgment of true Worth*, and the *Noisie Encomiums of prosperous Vice.* Time was (and in some Cases 'tis happy that there's a Flux of it,) when *Virtue* had its Name from prosperous Actions, tho never so vile and black; but when unsuccessful, it lost its Title: How far this Character concerns our *Gracious Sovereign*, none can so well judge as those that have taken *a Prospect of the whole Scene of his Life*; perhaps the *Parcæ* never drew a more even *Thread*; perhaps History describes not *a more calm and resolute Spirit under all attempts whatever.* Those that have seen him lay by the awe of Crowns, and appear like *COMMON CLAY* at the Head of an engaged Army in *Ireland*; and from thence to descend from his *Guard, and a strong Ship, into a small Boat*, tost under the hourly Expectation of a burying Wave, or an insulting Privateer; and after all this, shou'd see him again in *his Closet*, with the same unalter'd Brow, must conclude that *HE* has made *uncommon Approaches* towards the Nature of that *IMMOV'D BEING* that now has fixt and made sure his Crown. I shall not here trouble my self with the Niceness of that Dispute which wou'd determine *How far great Advantes in Honour and Preferments may alter the very Disposition of humane Spirits*, only to shew that for once we can give an Instance that destroys the *Maxim.* Every one that has consider'd the once declining State of *Holland*, and the unshaken *Resolves* of its *Great Pillar*, (the then Prince of *Orange*) must make the same Inference as I do. 'Twas in the Reign of K. *Charles* the second, that a *great Minister* of State was sent to him out of *England*, to advise him to a Complyance before all was lost; No, says his Highness, *I'le never see that day*; being ask'd how he cou'd avoid it, he answer'd, *By falling in the last Ditch.* If any thing cou'd perswade me to entertain the Doctrine of the *Transmigration of Souls*, 'twou'd be the parallel Expressions I've met with in the Lives of *Cæsar*, *Alexander*, and now his present Majesty, only different in his Majesty's being more *great* and *good.* But since a Learned Pen has already made some Comparisons, I'le wave it.

Zenophon's Character of an Hero is not altogether impertinent to the present Subject, perhaps it may come as near as any other to his Majesties Character, *Who desires Empire no farther than only to do good to Mankind, and Oblige 'em to be happy.* Not a Laurel that he wears will ever fade by the Unhappy State he brought his Conquests into. The *Ancient Heroes*, particularly the *Romans* have come the neareſt him in this; ('tis no Catechresis, since his own Virtue, and not their Copy tho' preceding his that set him on work) but to do that *extinguish'd State* Justice, we will also allow 'em to be *fam'd for their Clemency*, and all places made better and happier by their Conquests, as the *Obstinate Irish* at this day are very sensible, altho' they wou'd not be Courted into their Happiness but by the Blood of some of their Benefactors.

As to the Manner of *Triumphs*, *Triumphal Arches*, &c. 'twas thus in the ancient *Roman* and *Grecian* Empires; when their *Chief Captain* (whom the *Romans* called Lieutenant General) had obtained a Victory, the Common Soldier,

Souldiers ſalured him by the Name of *IMPERATOR*, after which he wou'd ſend Letters to the Senate *ſtuck with Laurel*, wherein he required both that Name to be Confirmed and Approved by 'em, as likewiſe that they wou'd appoint ſolemn Supplications, after which at his Coming he was honour'd *with a Triumph*; the leſſer ſort of *Triumph* was called *Ovatio*, (*ab Ove*, from a Sheep, which in the time of his *Triumph* was led before him, and afterwards Sacrificed by him) in the *greater Triumph* a Bull was Sacrificed, and the Acclamation differ'd from the leſſer in redoubling the Letter *O*, and from this ſome wou'd have it call'd *Ovatio*. —— In the greater Triumph they cry'd *IO TRIUMPHE, IO TRIUMPHE*, the Word *Triumphus* being deriv'd from Θριαμβος, who was a *Grecian*, and the firſt *Author of the Action*, therefore by little Change the Word had its Name from him. In the *greater Triumph* a Garment of State was worn by the *Lieutenant General*, as alſo a *Garland of Laurel, riding in a Chariot*: In the *leſſer Triumph* the Lieutenant General only wore a *plain Purple Gown*, a *Garland of Myrtle Tree*, and went on Foot, and in *perpetual* Memory of their Triumphs, ſome publick Places were erected for *Trophies*. But as to their *TRIUMPHAL ARCHES*, which yet comes neater the matter in hand, they were ſometimes called *Fornices*, whence it is that *Tully* calls *Fabian's Triumphal Arch* — *Fabianum Fornicem*: The Crowns were ſometimes *Laurel*, ſometimes *Gold*, ſometimes *Graſs*; which laſt, becauſe it may look a little ſtrange, it won't be amiſs to give the Reader a Reaſon of it. The *Corona Obſidinalis* was made of the Graſs which grew in that place where the *Romans* were Beſieged after they had broken up a Siege; hence it was ſometimes called *Corona graminea*, it was a token of yielding up their right in that place to their Captain. *Pliny* takes notice of the *Ceremony*, and hence it was that in Races and like Maſteries, he that was overcome did gather ſome of the Graſs that grew upon the place, and gave it to the Conqueror, as a Token that he did thereby acknowledge himſelf Conquered: This is the Reaſon of that Proverb, *Herbam dare, i. e.* to yield the Victory. There was another ſort of a Crown, called *Corona Civica*, or the Citizens Crown, which was beſtowed only upon him that *Saved a Citizens Life*; it was uſually made of Oak: Some think from hence that the Emperor in *Ovid's* time wou'd have always ſtanding before his Gates *an Oak Tree in the midſt of two Laurels*, —— *Ovid* ſeems to allude to this, when he ſays

Poſtibus Auguſtis eadem fidiſſima Cuſtos
Ante fores ſtabit, mediamque tuebere quercum.

There was alſo *Corona Muralis*, a Reward to him that firſt ſcal'd the Walls — This Crown was always put upon the *Tops of the Battlements*. There was another call'd *Corona Caſtrienſis*, which the Lieutenant General beſtowed upon him that firſt entered into the Enemies Tents. Another was call'd *Corona Navalis*, 'twas given to him that firſt *Boarded an Enemies Ship*: The laſt was called *Corona Ovalis*, as we have already mention'd above.

The *Grecians* alſo had their *Triumphal Trophies* made on Pillars of Braſs, Stone or Wood; if the laſt, 'twas either upon Olive or Oak.

——— *Quercuſque Trophæis*
Curva Tremeus ———

They Anſwer'd the *Triumphal Arches* amongſt the *Romans*, only thoſe might be taken away again, *as ours are at this day*, but the other might not be removed, and if ſpoil'd by Age muſt not be renewed; and therefore ſays *Plutarch*, ὡδὶ παρ' Ἕλλησιν, &c. thoſe that made 'em *Trophies of Braſs* were lookt upon as Contentious Men, and Haters of *Amneſty* — Now as in our *Triumphal Arches* we have uſually *the Names of our great Men, and ſome Fancy of the Poets*, ſo they Engraved an *Epigram, declaring the Cauſe of the War, and the manner of the Victory*; ſuch a one as *Ortbiades* wrote with the Blood of the *Argivi*. In *Thucidides* we read that *Pauſanias* having Conquer'd *Mardonius* at *Plateæ*, writ not only an *Arrogant Praiſe upon a Cup*, which he Conſecrated to the Gods of that Place, but alſo upon a Tripus made of Gold, and ſent it to *Delphos*, but the *Lacedemonians* being diſpleaſed with it, blotted it out, and inſtead thereof engraved the Names only of thoſe Cities.

They dedicated the beſt of their Spoils to the Gods, and *hung up the Arms* which they took, in the Temples, according to *Horace*,

——— *Vejanius Armis*
Herculis ad poſtem fixis latet Abditus Agro.

For a fuller Account we refer our Queriſt to ſuch Authors as have more room and opportunity to enlarge on theſe things.

But to make the Application, we ſhall offer, that not only the Civiliz'd *Romans* and *Greeks*, but the moſt ſavage and barbarous Nations in the World, always had their *DELIVERERS* in the greateſt Eſteem and Veneration; and truly if *Humanity ſhou'd put off its Gratitude*, and make no diſtinction between *Merit* and *Demerit* upon account of Obligation, yet *Policy* and *Intereſt* wou'd be ſufficient Motives to continue their Acknowledgments; for who would be Covetous of ingrateful returns, *or expoſe himſelf to be deſpis'd by the Object of his Care*. But we hope there's little need of applying the Conſequence to our *Engliſh* Nation, who both dare and can be *juſt* and *brave* without Preobligations, much more can be grateful where their *Wiſhes are prevented*, by a greater Bleſſing than *their Vanity wou'd let 'em hope for*; and if, as Naturaliſts Obſerve, there's a Chain of good or ill Accidents together, like Waves of a Sea, we may not unreaſonably hope that his Majeſties Obſervation may be Prophetick, *viz. That our preſent Succeſſes are Earneſts of yet greater Bleſſings which attend the next Summers Preparations againſt the Diſturber of the Peace of* Europe.

☞ The *PROPOSALS* annex'd to our laſt *Mercury*, are to be had at the *Raven* in the *Poultrey*, and of moſt Bokſellers.

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